Minimising the Red-Tapism in Government offices

2074. DR. MOHD. HASHIM KIDWAI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the steps taken by Government to reduce red-tapism in the Ministries and offices and to reduce the time-consuming procedure of the Government of India; and

(b) the details of effects of these measures, in terms of time, and to what extent the time-bound disposal of files has taken place?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI BIREN SINGH ENGTI): (a) and (b) Steps taken include:

(i) simplification and rationalisation of procedures to cut out delays;

(ii) preparation of time-bound action plans by the ministries regarding their functional areas and regular monitoring of the results achieved;

(iii) fixation of levels by the ministries for taking decisions on various categories of cases and the channel of their submission to speed up decision making and to enforce accountability;

(iv) delegation of powers by the Ministry of Finance to administrative ministries and by administrative ministries to their lower formations; and

(v) fixation of time limits for disposal of applications for licences/approvals received from public.

The position in this regard is reviewed from time to time. To cite a few examples of improvements made: the pace of disposal of applications in Import/Export Control Organisation, Department of Industry and Department of Investment has quickened; the time taken in financial clearance of projects by Railways have substantially reduced; position regarding settlement of cases and the overall disposal of business by the ministries is further streamlined.

Representation from federation of publishers and book sellers

2075. DR. MOHD. HASHIM KIDWAI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any representation from the Federation of Publishers and Book Sellers Association, India for restoring section 80 QQ of Income-tax Act to enable the publishers to have some reprieve from rising costs of paper and other printing inputs;

(b) if so, whether Government have accepted this request of publishers; and

(c) what is the total amount which is involved in giving this concession to publishers by restoring of section 80 QQ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B. K. GADHVI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) No comprehensive date are readily available in regard to the amount involved in giving this concession to publishers by restoring section 80 QQ. However, from the statistics available in regard to a sample of 3175 returns for assessment year 1984-85, the total revenue involved on this account was Rs. 1.331 crores in these cases.

Subsidies given by Government

2076. DR. MOHD. HASHIM KIDWAI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) total amount of subsidies given by Government to each sector including export subsidy during the last financial year and the current financial year; and

(b) the names of sectors to which subsidy has been given during the same period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN

THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B. K. GADHVI): (a) and (b) Itemised details of subsidies by Central Government provided in 1986-87 (RE) and 1987-88 (BE) are given in Statement 4 of the document "Expenditure Budget, 1987-88, Vol.1" which was presented to Parliament on 28th February, 1987 alongwith the Budget for 1987-88.

Central projects in U.P.

2077. DR. MOHD. HASHIM KIDWAI: Will the Minister of PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of Central projects completed in Uttar Pradesh till June, 1987;

(b) what is the number of Central projects in Uttar Pradesh which are under execution at present or have not yet been started;

(c) by when such projects are likely to be completed; and

(d) the total amount spent so far on the completed projects and what is the excluding the railways/gas pipeline projects under execution or projects which have not yet been started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) and (b) According to the available information in respect of Central projects covered by the Quarterly Monitoring System of the Ministry, the number of projects completed and under implementation till June, 1987 from the commencement of 7th Plan (1-4-1985) are 4 and 22 respectively.

(c) Projects under implementation are now scheduled for completion by 1990 excepting two coal projects which are likely to be completed by December, 1994.

(d) The total amounts spent on the completed projects and the present 'day estimated cost of projects under implementation are of the order of Rs. 380 crores and Rs. 6650 crores respectively, excluding the railways/gas pipline projects traversing through different States where the project cost is not amendable to allocation to different States.

Introduction of computers in Banks

2078. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is confusion on the agreement between the Indian Banks' Association and the Unions of the bank employees in introducing computers in the Banks;

(b) if so, what are the real problems; and

(c) by when the said agreement will be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Indian Banks' Association has advised that the agreement is in the process of implementation by the banks.

Gas Leakage in MES water pumping station Meerut

2079. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a woman had died and a number of persons were hospitalised following a chlorine gas leakage from the Military Engineering Service (MES) water pumping station in the cantonment area in Meerut recently; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof, stating the outcome of the inquiry conducted by Government into t
of gas and the action taken i

THE MINISTER OF
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RAJ PATIL): (a) an